GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:501
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS
Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Shahid Shri Mohammed

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating a scheme for development of pulses and oilseeds and to develop alternative crops in order to arrest the depletion of water table;

(b) if so, whether the Government has initiated training programmes for farmers through agricultural institutions for cultivation of such crops;

(c) whether the scientists have developed and tested any new techniques for cultivation of pulses and oilseeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative price to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 501 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2ND MAY, 2005.

(a)&(b): In order to give special thrust towards increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) during the 10th Five Year Plan. These crops are inherently less water consuming compared to the traditional high water demanding crops like rice, sugarcane and other cereals. Under the ISOPOM, financial assistance is provided for imparting training to farmers and extension workers on improved crop production and protection technologies. These training programmes are organized in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). Besides, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized by State Department of Agriculture, and ICAR, to popularize latest improved technologies among the farmers.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research and SAUs have developed high yielding varieties, hybrids, drought tolerant varieties of oilseeds and pulses. Besides, improved production and crop protection technologies like raised bed cultivation, ridge planting, mulching techniques using crop residues/polythene, cropping systems for efficient use of resources, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) have also been developed to increase production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses in the country, as a consequence of which productivity, production and area coverage under pulses and oilseeds have improved.

(e): Government of India announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major pulses and oilseeds every year on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to provide remunerative prices to the oilseeds and pulses growers. Whenever market prices of these crops fall below the MSPs, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), as Central Nodal Agency, undertakes procurement of pulses and oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS) in the country.